

DRAFT
Committee on Public Planting

Minutes for 10 September 2014

Present

Emily Axelrod, Vanessa Boukili, Kathleen Caldara, Paula Cortes, David Davis, E. Thomas Flynn, Kathleen Kelly, David Lefcourt (CA), Jonathan Lewis, Wayne Marshall, Nancy Phillips, Gitte Venicx, Florrie Wescoat, Catherine Daly Woodbury

General:

- Minutes of 9 July 2014 approved.
- It was agreed that goal-setting for the PPC is important not only to guide the work of the committee, but to establish its purview. The committee determined to revisit the mission statement as articulated by David Davis.

Arborist Updates

- Cambridge Landscaping wrapped up their pruning in Cambridgeport.
- Northern Tree pruning and tree removals in the cemetery and the golf course work is planned for the near future.
- The fall planting season is projected to add around 200 trees: 45 trees are earmarked for Huron Avenue.
- The Massachusetts Ave demonstration block is getting ready for planting. There is an interest in planting honey locusts.
- The EAB contract was awarded to Davey.
- Tree hearings on city ash trees deemed in poor condition is completed, and plans to remove are being put in place.
- The Arborist is interested in trying willow oak and other species to further diversify the current tree list.
- To insure that contracted tree care companies are complying with Arborist directions, contractors will be asked to participate in a webinar and sign off on after viewing.
- The Cambridge Common/Flagstaff Park renovation has begun across the street along Mass Ave., to be completed a year from now.
(<http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/projects/transportation/cambridgecommon.aspx>)

Questions and Reports:

- Questions arose about the current advance of the ALB. It was noted that Boston was out of quarantine, but Worcester area is still quarantined.
- Roughly 20% to 25% of city-maintained trees are hosts specific to ALB.
- Roughly 15% of all trees are Norway maples.
- The Elm and Hampshire Plaza is slated for renovation this fall, as well as Hurley Park in East Cambridge.
(<http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/projects/parks/elmandhampshireplaza.aspx>)

- The beech tree at the Cambridge Library will be removed because of irreparable damage from construction (damaged roots and a change in grade). It serves as a hard lesson learned.
- Report on pesticides: the city has a policy, but not an ordinance for residents. A question arose about the practices of outside contractors. David cited the IPM plan at massnrc.org (<http://massnrc.org/ipm/pest-management.html>) that governs what contractors can or cannot do.
- On accreditation as an urban forestry site: Cambridge meets the standards, but we need a master plan. However, we need a management plan (how we are currently operating), and then we can develop a master plan for the future.
- By City Council proclamation, Earthwatch was thanked for its work with the City's trees and Forestry Division.
- The committee confirmed its intention to write a letter of support for more funding for the Arborist.

Action Items

- Report from David on his visit to the Western Ave project.
- Revisit species list currently under revision. David Davis suggested adding the planting date to the database.
- Update on Michael Hanlon's report on workers apparently cutting through tree roots on Lake View and Lexington, as well as on asphalt: temporary patches?
- Insure that the CPP has the proper representation from CDD. Hanlon and Davis are planning a meeting with Owen O'Riordan and follow up with a letter.
- Letter of support to be written for the urban forest challenge grant for EarthWatch.
- Rollover: mission statement.
- Rollover: Maggie Booz report on Urban Agricultural Task Force.